

All exercises from Rudin, page 43.



(5) Construct a bounded set of real numbers with exactly three limit points

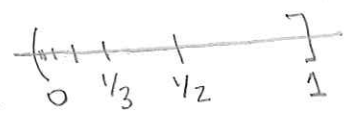
Solution: Let  $S = \{\frac{1}{n}\} \cup \{1 + \frac{1}{n}\} \cup \{2 + \frac{1}{n}\}$ , for  $n=1, 2, 3, \dots$

claim: the set  $S$  has exactly three limit points, namely 0, 1 and 2. Moreover this set is bounded.

Pf: that  $S$  is bounded is clear. For instance, take  $r=5$  and consider  $N_r(0)$  then,  $N_r(0) = (-5, 5)$  and  $S \subset N_r(0)$ . So  $S$  is bounded.

To prove that  $S$  has exactly three limit points, we can prove that each piece of  $S$  has exactly one limit point and we'll be done. Namely, let us show that (i)  $\{\frac{1}{n}\}$  has exactly one limit point (0), (ii)  $\{1 + \frac{1}{n}\}$  has exactly one limit point (1) and (iii)  $\{2 + \frac{1}{n}\}$  has exactly one limit point (2).

(i) First, 0 is a limit point of  $\{\frac{1}{n}\}$ . this follows from the fact that  $\{\frac{1}{n}\} \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . By definition of convergence,  $\forall \epsilon > 0: \exists N: |\frac{1}{n}| < \epsilon, \forall n \geq N$ . So, choose  $\epsilon > 0$  and  $N$  so that the previous hold. then, let  $r = \epsilon$ ,  $y = \frac{1}{N} < r \Rightarrow y \in N_r(0)$  and  $y \neq 0$ . therefore  $N_r(0) \setminus \{0\} \cap \{\frac{1}{n}\} \neq \emptyset$  for any  $r > 0$ . Hence, 0 is a limit point of  $\{\frac{1}{n}\}$ .



Next, there are no other limit points on  $\{\frac{1}{n}\}$  over  $\mathbb{R}$ . Since the rationals are dense in the reals, we can pick two real numbers that are between any rational number, let  $r_1, r_2$  be such that  $\frac{1}{n+1} < r_1 < r_2 < \frac{1}{n}$  and  $\frac{1}{n} < r_2 < \frac{1}{n-1}$ , for  $n=2, 3, \dots$  (1 is obviously not a limit point: take  $r = \frac{1}{4}$ , then  $N_{r_1}(1) \setminus \{1\} \cap \{\frac{1}{n}\} = \emptyset$ ). Now, pick  $r = \min(r_1, r_2)$ . then,  $r > 0$  and fix  $m$ , we have  $N_r(\frac{1}{m}) \setminus \{\frac{1}{m}\} \cap \{\frac{1}{n}\} = \emptyset$ ; so that any of the points  $\frac{1}{m}$ ,  $m=1, 2, \dots$  is not a limit point.

Likewise, for any real number between two consecutive terms of  $\frac{1}{n}$ , we can choose  $r = \frac{1}{2} \min(d(x, \frac{1}{n}), d(x, \frac{1}{n+1}))$  so that  $N_r(x) \setminus \{x\} \cap \{\frac{1}{n}\} = \emptyset$ , so that any real number between 0 and 1 is not a limit point of  $\{\frac{1}{n}\}$ .

therefore, the set  $\{\frac{1}{n}\}$ , for  $n=1, 2, \dots$  has exactly one limit point, namely 0.

(ii) and (iii) follow in a very similar fashion using almost identical argument. Since  $\{1 + \frac{1}{n}\}, \{2 + \frac{1}{n}\}$  are just shifts of  $\{\frac{1}{n}\}$  to the right by 1 and 2 respectively.



therefore,  $S = \{\frac{1}{n}\} \cup \{1 + \frac{1}{n}\} \cup \{2 + \frac{1}{n}\}$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  is a bounded set of real numbers with exactly three limit points.

Let  $E'$  be the set of all limit points of a set  $E$ .

(a) Prove that  $E'$  is closed.

(b) Prove that  $E$  and  $\bar{E}$  have the same limit points

(c) Do  $E$  and  $E'$  always have the same limit points?

Solution: For (a) I can think of two strategies:

(1) Prove that  $(E')^c$  is open thereby showing that  $((E')^c)^c = E'$  is closed.

(2) Show that every limit point of  $E'$  is a point of  $E'$ , which in this case means that every limit point of  $E'$  is a limit point of  $E$ .

I am going to use strategy (2).

Let  $p$  be a limit point of  $E'$ . then, by definition,  $\forall r > 0: N_r(p) \setminus \{p\} \cap E' \neq \emptyset$ .  
 Let  $r > 0$ . Pick  $q$  a point such that  $q \in N_r(p) \setminus \{p\} \cap E'$ . then,  $q \in N_r(p)$  and  $q \neq p$  and  $q \in E'$ . By this last fact we know that  $q$  is a limit point of  $E$ . So, for any  $r_1 > 0: N_{r_1}(q) \setminus \{q\} \cap E \neq \emptyset$ . Choose  $\delta = \frac{1}{2}(r - d(p, q))$ . then,  $N_\delta(q) \subset N_r(p)$ . Pick  $s \in N_\delta(q) \setminus \{q\} \cap E$ . then  $s \in N_\delta(q) \Rightarrow s \in N_r(p)$  and  $s \neq q$  and  $s \neq p$  and  $s \in E$ . therefore,  $N_r(p) \setminus \{p\} \cap E \neq \emptyset$  (in particular  $\cap N_r(p) \setminus \{p\} \cap E$ ), which means that  $p$  is a limit point of  $E$ , which by definition means that  $p \in E'$ .  $\square$

(b), Let us show that  $E' = (\bar{E})'$ , as usual by double containment.

Let  $x \in E'$  then  $x$  is a limit point of  $E$ . therefore, for any  $r > 0$ ,  $N_r(x) \setminus \{x\} \cap E \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $y \in N_r(x) \setminus \{x\} \cap E$ . then  $y \in N_r(x) \setminus \{x\}$  and  $y \in E$ .  
 $y \in E \Rightarrow y \in \bar{E}$ . therefore,  $N_r(x) \setminus \{x\} \cap \bar{E} \neq \emptyset$ . So,  $x$  is a limit point of  $\bar{E}$ , which means that  $x \in (\bar{E})'$ .

Let  $x \in (\bar{E})'$ . then  $x$  is a limit point of  $\bar{E}$ . therefore, for any  $r > 0$ ,  $N_r(x) \setminus \{x\} \cap \bar{E} \neq \emptyset \Leftrightarrow N_r(x) \setminus \{x\} \cap (E \cup E') \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $q \in N_r(x) \setminus \{x\} \cap (E \cup E')$ . then,  $q \in N_r(x) \setminus \{x\} \cap E$  or  $q \in N_r(x) \setminus \{x\} \cap E'$ . In the first case we have that  $x$  is a limit point of  $E$ , therefore  $x \in E'$  and we are done.  
 In the second case, we have that  $x$  is a limit point of  $E'$ . But in (a) we proved that every limit point of  $E'$  is a limit point of  $E$ . Hence,  $x \in E'$ .  $\square$



For (c) consider the following counter example:

Define  $E = \{ \frac{1}{n} \}$  for  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ . We proved in exercise (5) that  $E$  has only 0 as its limit points, i.e.,  $E' = \{0\}$ . However,  $E'$  has no limit points for suppose  $E'$  has a limit point  $p$ . then, for any  $r > 0$ ,  $N_r(p) \setminus \{p\} \cap E' \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $x \in N_r(p) \setminus \{p\} \cap E'$ .  $\Rightarrow x \in N_r(p) \setminus \{p\}$  and  $x \in E'$ . this final statement means  $x \in \{0\} \Rightarrow x = 0$  therefore  $0 \in N_r(p) \setminus \{p\}$ . Clearly, 0 cannot be a limit point. Moreover we can always choose  $r$  small enough so that  $0 \notin N_r(p) \setminus \{p\}$ , by picking  $r < d(0, p)$ . therefore, there is no such limit point  $p$  and so  $(E')' = \emptyset \neq E' = \{0\}$ , so  $E$  and  $E'$  do not have the same lim. poi

(7) Let  $A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots$  be subsets of a metric space. 10

(a) If  $B_n = \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i$ , prove that  $\overline{B_n} = \bigcup_{i=1}^n \overline{A_i}$ , for  $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$  First I am going to check that this definition make sense

Pf: ( $\subseteq$ ) Let  $x \in \overline{B_n}$ . then  $x \in B_n \cup B_n' \Rightarrow x \in B_n$  or  $x \in B_n'$

If  $x \in B_n$  then  $x \in \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i \Rightarrow x \in A_k$ , for some  $k, 1 \leq k \leq n$ . Hence,  $x \in A_k \cup A_k'$

and so  $x \in \overline{A_k}$ . therefore,  $x \in \bigcup_{i=1}^n \overline{A_i}$ .

otherwise, If  $x \in B_n'$  then  $x$  is a limit point of  $B_n$ , so  $x$  is a limit point of  $\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i$  so for every  $r > 0: N_r(x) \setminus \{x\} \cap (\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i) \neq \emptyset$ ; therefore, there exists  $k, 1 \leq k \leq n$ , such that  $N_r(x) \setminus \{x\} \cap A_k \neq \emptyset$ , otherwise the union will be empty which is not the case. But then  $x$  is a limit point of  $A_k \Rightarrow x \in A_k' \Rightarrow x \in A_k \cup A_k' \Rightarrow x \in \overline{A_k} \Rightarrow x \in \bigcup_{i=1}^n \overline{A_i}$

( $\supseteq$ ) Let  $x \in \bigcup_{i=1}^n \overline{A_i}$ . then  $x \in \overline{A_k}$ , for some  $k, 1 \leq k \leq n$ . Hence,  $x \in A_k \cup A_k'$

If  $x \in A_k$  then  $x \in \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i \Rightarrow x \in B_n \Rightarrow x \in B_n \cup B_n' \Rightarrow x \in \overline{B_n}$

If  $x \in A_k'$  then  $x$  is a limit point of  $A_k$ , for some  $1 \leq k \leq n$ , by an argument similar to the case ( $\subseteq$ ),  $x$  is a limit point of  $\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i$ , so  $x$  is a limit point of  $B_n \Rightarrow x \in B_n' \Rightarrow x \in B_n \cup B_n' \Rightarrow x \in \overline{B_n}$

So, these definitions make sense in the finite union case. Now, let us prove

(a) for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  by induction:

Induction: Consider the statement  $S(n): \underline{\text{If}} B_n = \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i \text{ then } \overline{B_n} = \bigcup_{i=1}^n \overline{A_i}$ .

BASE CASE:  $S(n=1): \underline{\text{If}} B_1 = \bigcup_{i=1}^1 A_i \text{ then } \overline{B_1} = \bigcup_{i=1}^1 \overline{A_i}$ .

Suppose  $B_1 = \bigcup_{i=1}^1 A_i = A_1$ . then  $\overline{B_1} = \overline{A_1} = \bigcup_{i=1}^1 \overline{A_i}$ . So base case holds.

Inductive STEP: Suppose  $S(n)$  is true. We want to prove  $S(n+1)$ , i.e.,

$S(n+1): \underline{\text{If}} B_{n+1} = \bigcup_{i=1}^{n+1} A_i \text{ then } \overline{B_{n+1}} = \bigcup_{i=1}^{n+1} \overline{A_i}$

Suppose  $B_{n+1} = \bigcup_{i=1}^{n+1} A_i$  and  $B_n = \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i$

$$\overline{B_{n+1}} = \overline{\left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{n+1} A_i \right)} \text{ by assumption}$$

$$= \overline{\left[ \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i \right) \cup A_{n+1} \right]} \text{ Separating the union.}$$

$$= \overline{B_n \cup A_{n+1}} \text{ by assumption}$$

$$= \overline{B_n} \cup \overline{A_{n+1}} \text{ by inductive hypothesis, considering } C = B_n \cup A_{n+1},$$

$$= \bigcup_{i=1}^n \overline{A_i} \cup \overline{A_{n+1}} \text{ by inductive hypothesis}$$

$$= \bigcup_{i=1}^{n+1} \overline{A_i} \text{ by combining the union.}$$

If  $B = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i$ , prove that  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} \overline{A_i} \subset \overline{B}$

Let  $x \in \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} \overline{A_i}$ . then,  $x \in \overline{A_k}$ , for some  $k$ .

ence,  $x \in A_k \cup A_k'$ , so  $x \in A_k$  or  $x \in A_k'$ .

$x \in A_k$  then  $x \in \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \Rightarrow x \in B \Rightarrow x \in B \cup B' \Rightarrow x \in \overline{B}$

$x \in A_k'$  then  $x$  is a limit point of  $A_k$ . So, for any  $r > 0$ .

$(x) \setminus \{x\} \cap A_k \neq \emptyset$ , so  $N_r(x) \setminus \{x\} \cap \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \right) \neq \emptyset$ , so  $x$  is a limit

point of  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i = B$  (by hypothesis). therefore,  $x \in B' \Rightarrow x \in B \cup B'$

$x \in \overline{B}$ .

the result holds, i.e.,  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} \overline{A_i} \subset \overline{B}$   $\square$

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Show, by an example that this inclusion can be proper.

Using ideas developed in (5) and (6), consider  $B = \{\frac{1}{n}, n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ .

then,  $B$  can be decomposed as  $B = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i$ , where  $A_i = \{1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \dots, \frac{1}{i}\}$

If you fix an  $i$ , then  $A_i$  contains finitely many points, so  $A_i$  is closed

thus,  $\bar{A}_i = A_i$ . But, we already proved in (5) that  $B' = \{0\}$ , so  $\bar{B} = B \cup \{0\}$

therefore  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} \bar{A}_i \subset \bar{B}$ , but  $\{0\} \not\subset \bar{A}_i$  for any  $i$ , so  $\{0\} \notin \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} \bar{A}_i$ , so the

inclusion can be proper.

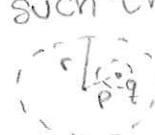
(8) Is every point of every open set  $E \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  a limit point of  $E$ ?

Solution: YES. Pf: Let  $E \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  be an open set. By definition, all points

in  $E$  are interior to  $E$ . Let  $x \in E$ . then, there exist  $r > 0$  such that

$N_r(x) \subset E$ . Now, let  $r_1 > 0$ . Pick a point  $y \in \mathbb{R}^2$  such that

$$d(x, y) < \frac{1}{2} \min(r, r_1).$$

 this choice is possible because space is  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

Now,  $d(x, y) > 0 \Rightarrow x \neq y$ . Moreover, by our choice of  $d(x, y)$  we have that

$y \in N_{r_1}(x)$  and  $y \in N_r(x) \subset E \Rightarrow y \in E$ . therefore,

$N_{r_1}(x) \setminus \{x\} \cap E \neq \emptyset$  (in particular  $y$  is in this intersection)

Hence,  $x$  is a limit point of  $E$ .  $\square$

Answer the same question for closed sets in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

Solution: NO. Consider the set  $E = \{(1, 2)\}$ . clearly this set is closed since it contains all of its limit points, i.e.,  $E' = \emptyset$ . Moreover,  $(1, 2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$  is not a limit point of  $E$ .

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